

15 November 2012 - Multi-purpose Room, Bedford, Town Hall

## **Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Committee Members Attending:** Bob Dorer, Chair Annalisa Madison, Margott Fleshman (Selectmen's Liaison), Ralph Hammond, Cindy Barbehenn, and Brian O'Donnell

**Others Present:** Gordon Yeats, Guy St.Sauveur, Mark Bracco, and Rich Madison

**Meeting called to order at 7:54 PM a quorum being present**

**Reviewed draft minutes of the TAC Meeting of 26 September 2012** Moved Second and Approved as presented

**Reviewed draft minutes of the TAC Meeting of 17 October 2012** Moved Second and Approved as presented

### **Sidewalk Project Updates --review of draft letter for Hemlock Lane sidewalk. (key points bulleted below)**

- Reviewed the letters from Guy St.Sauveur and Gordon Yeats
- Discussed including the letters received to date for any future deliberations with the Board of Selectmen and include them as attachments for the memo to be sent by TAC to the Selectmen.
- Received more comments related to the need to consider a full extension of sidewalk to include Page Road, that does not have a sidewalk in this area, but needs one badly, especially to connect to the trails into the Velenti Land and to Burlington Road which does have a sidewalk.
- It was noted that Senior Bedford DPW Engineer Adrienne St. John's had previously commented that installation of sidewalks on portions of Page Rd was more difficult because of lack of town property on both sides of the roadway layout in key areas.
- A proposal was made to suggest a left hand turn onto Hemlock from Rt. 62 be restricted to certain hours. A question was raised but not answered, "is Rt. 62 a state or town road in this area?" The answer would have a bearing on options the town may have. It was also noted that the Rt. 62 and Hemlock Lane intersection seems to be wider than normal.
- It was noted by one Hemlock Lane resident that the sharing of the "burdens" of utilities such as power lines, hydrants, etc. would indicate that sidewalks should be on the opposite side of the road.
- There is a major need for safety improvements in the area, sidewalks, intersections, speed control, etc.
- At the Burlington Rd end of Hemlock there is a serious flooding problem do to poor drainage which resulted in serious damage during the last storm (and also occurs during most heavy rain events). It is felt this situation is caused at least in part because of the flow of water from Rt. 62, Hilltop Drive, Hemlock Lane, and the new house lot at 17 Hemlock. Drain capacity does not appear adequate to handle the storm water runoff present. As a result a home owner had extensive damage during Hurricane Sally.
- A question was raised, does new storm water management rules relates to the new house at 17 Hemlock?
- Another question raised was, because runoff relates to this wetland area should the conservation commission be involved?
- A potential addition to the Page Rd sidewalk network in this area has a problem with not enough land on the north side and the south side may present crosswalk sight line challenges.
- A concern was shared that if we enter too many concerns in the letter and at a future meeting with the selectman that this will cause the Hemlock sidewalk construction to be delayed even more. Some noted "we all want a sidewalk now". Ultimately though, it was noted, it is the selectmen's call, TAC only has an advisory role.
- TAC Chair Dorer agreed to update the draft memo to the selectman on this topic for review, and hopefully final action, at the TAC 12 December Meeting.
- Some general discussion also ensued concerning other municipalities approaches (with Cambridge being specifically mentioned) to improving pedestrian and bicycle safety. It was noted more effort may be needed in Bedford to bring about these types of changes in our town.

### **Discussion of Proposed Bedford Circuit Loop Trails Network: TAC member Ralph Hammond then updated the committee on this network**

- Two proposed and identified marked sidewalks, paths and trails linking town recreation, and conservations lands all together both starting at the Bedford Public Library
- **Circuit Trail #1** (70% ADA (American's With Disability Act (of 1990)) Compliant 25% ready for use (Total 95% OK) 5% not accessible, improvement needed)
- **Circuit Trail #2** (43% ADA Compliant 43% ready for use (Total 86% OK) 13% not accessible)

- The committee strongly endorsed this initiative and felt Ralph should now meet with the Town Manager to explore the next step to get this concept ready for formal signage and ready for promoting. Most town committees have been informed about this project and the response has been very favorable.

### **Special Town Meeting Review:**

- All transportation items were approved at the STM
- Should we try to integrate sidewalk issues into the Capital Expenditure Committee to build awareness of possible future sidewalk master planning? So far CPA (Community Preservation Act) funds have been available.

### **Review of Planned discussion points for Police Chief meeting at the 12 December TAC meeting:**

### **In addition to previously distributed material on possible areas of discussion and notes from the meeting with the previous Police Chief the following items were also noted;**

- Water project on the Great Road –
  - will likely have an impact on traffic through town (depending on scope of replacement vs relining)
  - traffic during this project will likely have a huge impact on secondary roads
  - can the project be done during the summer?
  - perhaps a system to alert neighboring communities to assist by diverting traffic away from Bedford Center can be discussed
  - impact on the MBTA bus Rt. 62 bus service can be reduced if planning is worked out ahead of time
  - school bus problems may also develop that need to be planned for ahead of time

### **Next Meetings for 2013:**

- Possible change of dates but we have not chosen dates for January 2013 yet – will try an online survey for TAC member availability

### **Open Discussion on TAC charter and key issues to address in coming year.**

- No discussion on this because of the time.

### **Suggested agenda items for next meeting on 12 December:**

- Finalize and vote on the Hemlock Lane letter to the selectmen
- See Police Chief items above
- Set meeting times for January 2013 and future meetings in 2013
- Review a time to meet with Sue Baldauf, Director of Youth and Family Services to discuss transportation related findings from the recent “Healthier Bedford” survey
- Brian to share a Bedford Transportation snapshot from the Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Website

### **Date for Upcoming Meeting:**

- 12 December 2012 - Multi-Purpose Room

Meeting Adjourned 9:44

Recorded by Ralph Hammond